

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 112

Introduced by Assembly Member Bogh

August 30, 2001

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112—Relative to Economic Literacy Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 112, as introduced, Bogh. Economic Literacy Week.

This measure would recognize the week of October 22 through October 26, 2001, as Economic Literacy Week in this state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Young people should understand our economic
2 system to perform effectively as workers, consumers, savers, and
3 citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, In turn, this state's economy depends on
5 economically informed, educated citizens to maintain its
6 competitive edge; and

7 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, adults and high school pupils do
8 not have a grasp of rudimentary economic concepts, according to
9 a recent Louis Harris poll surveying 1,000 adults and 1,000 high
10 school pupils nationwide; and

11 WHEREAS, While those polled were nearly unanimous in their
12 belief that basic economics should be taught in high school, both
13 pupils and adults lack a fundamental understanding of scarcity,
14 money, and inflation, with less than half of the participants
15 demonstrating knowledge of these concepts; and

1 WHEREAS, Legislation in the 1984–85 Regular Session
2 established a one-semester course in economics as a requirement
3 for graduation from high school; and

4 WHEREAS, New standards, adopted by the State Board of
5 Education in November 1988, include an economics strand
6 integrated into the Social Science curriculum, kindergarten
7 through grade 11, inclusive; and

8 WHEREAS, The California Council on Economic Education
9 works with the California State University system, other colleges
10 and universities and Centers for Economic Education to help
11 teachers implement new standards; and

12 WHEREAS, With the leadership of the California Council on
13 Economic Education, the State Board of Education adopted new
14 history social science standards that promote economic reasoning
15 and an understanding of the United States economy in a global
16 setting; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Charkins, Ph.D., currently Professor of
18 Economics at California State University, San Bernardino, is the
19 Executive Director of the California Council on Economic
20 Education; and

21 WHEREAS, The economics strand helps students view history
22 not as a series of random events, but as the result of decisions made
23 by individuals; and

24 WHEREAS, These concepts help students evaluate major
25 decisions that will affect them for the rest of their lives, including
26 teen marriage and pregnancy, careers and school versus work; and

27 WHEREAS, California has made great progress in economic
28 education and is one of only 13 states that include an economics
29 course in the high school graduation requirements; and

30 WHEREAS, The adoption of the 1998 history social science
31 standards, economics now plays a greater role in the kindergarten
32 through grade 12, inclusive, classroom since the economics strand
33 runs through the entire curriculum; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the week of October 22, 2001, through
36 October 26, 2001, be recognized as Economic Literacy Week in
37 this state.

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